

BY JACK O. BALDWIN

Our society editor, Miss Marjorie Myers, who is really Mrs. Chester Smith, wife of a Navy flyer, is about to leave the Herald. Her flyer hubby is due home next week from carrier duty off the coast of Korea.

He warned her what it would be like to be a "Navy Wife."

In fact, he sent her this ode to a Navyman's wife which could only have been composed by a very understanding husband or by a Navy wife with at least 30 years service.

OUR NAVY WIVES Who said that "Variety is the spice of life?"

No doubt 'twas first said by a Navy wife

For the poor girl never knows just where he's at— At HOME is wherever he parks his hat.

She moves every two years into new sets of quarters, During which time she births sons and daughters.

She packs up to move to the plains of Nebraska. Then orders are changed and they go to Alaska.

Her house may be a hut with no room for expansion. It may be a tent or perhaps it's a mansion.

Then she uncrates the furniture in snows or in rains. And lays the linoleum between aches and pains.

She wrangles axes, horses and builds all the beds. Makes curtains of target cloth she last used for spreads.

And during each move—now isn't it strange? The kids invariably catch mumps, measles or mangle!

She no more than gets settled when she must dress up pretty. And go to a party and be charming and witty.

On every subject she must know how to discourse. She must swim, ski and never be nervous.

She must know songs and traditions of the service. She fast learns the dope on how HE won the War.

She ditterbugs with Lieutenants who always are glamorous— She must drink all concoctions, gin, whiskey and beer.

But—of course, moderately or she'll wreck his career. He insists on economy, questions every stub.

Yet her house must be run like a hotel or club. For she entertains at all hours both early and late.

For any number of guests—eighty or eight. The first of the month there is plenty of cash.

So she serves turkey and ham—but the next week it's hash. She juggles the budget for his new tropical wardrobe.

Though the seams on her own outfit have burst. One year she does her own work and has a new baby.

The next she has servants and lives like a lady. That there'll be a bank balance she has no assurance.

It all goes for likker and some damn insurance. At an age to retire, he is still hale and hearty.

Fit as a fiddle, the life of the party. While she is old and haggard, cranky and nervous—

Really a wreck after his thirty years service. But even then when all's said and done.

She has lived every minute—and why, good grief— She'd have been bored with a barber or merchant chief.

But there's one fancy medal, and Navy men wear it; It's their wives who should have it, THAT LEGION OF MERRIT!

Out in our neighborhood there is a man who has worked out a unique plan with his wife. She pays him regular baby sitting fees to sit home with the kids at night while she works.



STUDENT OFFICERS . . . An election at Torrance High School on Wednesday gave titles to these new student leaders. Pictured are (left to right seated): Betsy Shaw, Girls' League President; Bob Hopkins, Commissioner of Group Control; Jim Crain, Vice-president of the Student Body; (standing): Mickey Van Deventer, Commissioner of activities; and Lee Mortenson, President of the Student Body. In rear are Arline Smart, Tartar Lady Queen; Joan Stephens, Commissioner of Finance; Marca Wright, Commissioner of Records; Bill Oehlert, Commissioner of Athletics and Vladimir Popovich, Boys' Comrt Judge.

Mortenson New THS Student Body Boss

Lee Mortenson was elected to preside over the Torrance High School Student Body for the next school year in elections held Wednesday at the school. Mortenson nosed out Dan Mayers for the top student body position.

The election ended an all-out three-day whirlwind campaign during which the noisiest of posters and election gimmicks were used by the hopefuls to win votes.

Others named on the student body ballot were Jim Crain, vice-president; Marca Wright, commissioner of records; Bill Oehlert, commissioner of athletics; (unopposed); Bob Hopkins, commissioner of group control;

Orchestra Man Injured in PCH Traffic Wreck

Marvin Karal, a member of Tommy Dorsey's band, received minor injuries when his car collided with one driven by Jimmie Tallero, San Pedro, at Walnut Ave. and Pacific Coast Hwy. Monday afternoon.

Karal and his young wife, Joyce, of Culver City, were stopped at a signal when their auto was hit from the rear by Tallero's car, they told investigators.

Taken to Hillside Emergency Hospital, Karal was treated for a wrenched neck. Tallero, also hurt, left the scene to go to a private physician, according to California Highway Patrol Officer J. Starwyck.

Accident Brings Police On Run But Driver Gone

Highway Patrol officers, Sheriff's deputies and Gardena police officers rushed to report of a bad accident at 174th St. and Normandie Ave., late Sunday night when they were told that driver of the wrecked auto had been thrown by the impact into Dominguez Channel.

They found the wrecked auto, a light truck carrying small bedding plants. They saw where it had struck a narrow bridge, cleaned out the roadway barricades, turned over and skidded down the street, hitting a power pole.

But they couldn't find the driver. A check of local hospitals revealed that no patients had been admitted. A check of the channel and the area turned up nothing.

Highway patrol investigators yesterday said that they believe the truck was a stolen vehicle and checks with the alleged owner are being attempted to learn who was in possession of the car at the time of the crash.

Largest Ever Scout-O-Rama Opens Tomorrow

If you spend no more than two minutes at each of the Cub Scout, Boy Scout, or Explorer booths at the 1952 Scout-O-Rama this weekend, it would take you 40.4 hours to see the complete exhibit!

That's almost a mile of walking on the field of the L.A. Memorial Coliseum—there are 4320 feet of aisles serving the 312 booths.

If you saw every different stage show which is to be presented by Scouts of this and the other Boy Scout districts of the Los Angeles Area Scout Council, you would have to attend all three performances of the Scout-O-Rama, Friday from 7 to 10 p.m. and Saturday from 2 to 5 and 7 to 10, spending all nine hours of the show watching stage presentations.

Camping Trip If you visited every Patrol site in the big model camp, adjacent to Christmas Tree Lane from Figueroa St. to the peristyle entrance of the Coliseum, you would spend at least 32 hours in the camping area alone.

That's why the 1952 Scout-O-Rama is the world's biggest Scout show. Fifteen thousand Cub Scouts, Boy Scouts, and Explorers will participate. It will be 16 shows-in-one as each district, demonstrating Scouting skills, handicraft, and hobbies, and presents its own special stage show.

To Pick 10 Highlight of the district stage show will be the presentation of the ten top junior leaders of the district and the announcement of the two who have been selected to attend a special 40-day training course at Philmont Scout Ranch, Cimarron, New Mexico, this summer.

Tickets for the Scout-O-Rama are still available from local Cubs, Scouts, and Explorers or may be purchased at the Coliseum gate at show time.

City Employees Picnic Promises Whale of a Time

A whale of a time has been promised city employees who will pack up the kiddies and move into the Torrance Park for a "City Employees Picnic" Saturday afternoon.

Hot items on the program include everything from a bean guessing contest to a three-legged race. A pyramid race for women and a slow-pitch softball game between Elmer Moon's Colts and Swayne Johnson's Miles will top off the day of frolicking.

Hours of the picnic have been scheduled from 1 p.m. until 6 p.m.

Missing Heifer Found In Auction Sale Pen

Last May 27 Michael G. Vanderberg reported to Torrance police that a heifer belonging to him had been stolen.

Sunday Vanderberg told officers that he thought he had found the missing animal—in an auction pen at Cypress, Calif.

Orange County authorities put a "hold" on the Heifer and are checking to see how the critter got there.



PLUMBING SHOP RAZED . . . Smoke billows from the open door of a plumbing storehouse at 256th St. and Narbonne Ave. which was severely damaged by fire during the noon hour Monday. County firefighters from three engine companies battled the blaze, caused by an exploding butane tank. One workman was burned. The towering smoke attracted sightseers from several miles and Narbonne Ave. traffic was routed around nearby streets for nearly an hour. Damage was listed at \$10,000.

(Herald Photo by Dick Friend) Fire touched off by an exploding butane tank swept through a plumbing supply house at 256th St. and Narbonne Ave. during the lunch hour Monday causing an estimated \$10,000 damage to a building and contents, and injuring a workman.

Fire Called Worst Since End of War

Listed as the biggest fire in the Lomita area since the end of World War II, the flames spread quickly throughout the structure severely damaging a \$5000 supply of new hot water heaters and other plumbing fixtures which had been moved into the building only Saturday.

Worker Burned Alvin Penny, 39, of Wilmington, an employee at the plumbing shop, received first and second degree burns of the arms, left shoulder, head and face when the butane gas ignited.

He was treated at a neighboring doctor's office. County firemen from three engine companies, directed by Capt. Roy Swank, Engine 6, brought the fire under control within twenty minutes after first arrival.

Observers recalled that the last sizable fire in the area occurred shortly after the last war when a private plane crashed into a Pennsylvania Avenue house and the ensuing fire gutted the residence.

Bottle Flashed Plumbing shop owner George J. Smith, of 1729 W. 251st St., told firemen that he and Penny were using burning butane from a small tank when the entire metal bottle seemed to flash. Flames roared to the rafters and spread across the entire structure.

The building had been used as a spray painting booth until recent months. Smith, who estimated that loss to new machinery and sup-



WERNER GEBAUER . . . Appearance Scheduled

Top Musical Talent Assured for Concert

One of America's outstanding young violinists, Werner Gebauer, will be the featured soloist at the Torrance Concert Orchestra's final performance of the season tomorrow evening at the Torrance High School auditorium.

Gebauer will team up with guest conductor Joseph Piastro, who will take the baton from Director Abe Milstein for part of the evening's program.

The young violinist made his New York debut in 1945 and his recital was hailed by the New York critics as the most important of the season.

Born a Baron He was born in Germany as Baron Werner Oswald Ludwig von Gebauer. He fled from the Nazis in 1937 and came to America under the sponsorship of Arturo Toscanini and Bruno Walter.

Gebauer appeared on the west coast for the first time in 1949 when he was starred with the Los Angeles Symphony Orchestra under the direction of Alfred Wallenstein.

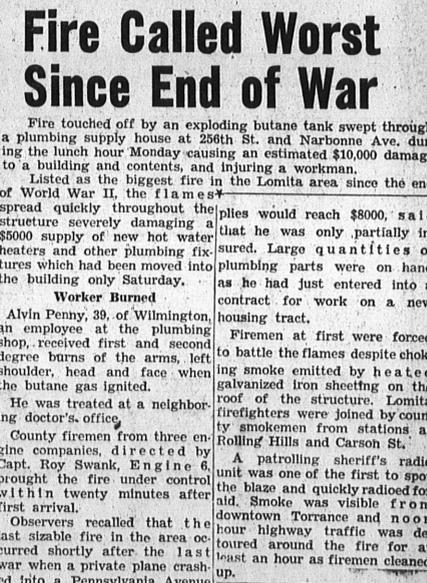
Has MGM Contract He is currently under contract to Metro-Goldwyn-Mayer and is associate-concertmaster of the MGM Studio Symphony Orchestra.

Piastro, a noted violinist also, as well as conductor, composer and teacher, will conduct the orchestra which will be augmented by top studio players, Milstein said.

The conductor left Czarist Russia, where he had studied the violin with many world-renowned musicians.

Highlight of the evening will probably be the performance by Gebauer and the orchestra of the Wenzelski Concerto for violin and orchestra.

Other program selections will include Finlandia by Sibelius, Blue Tango by Anderson, Granada by Lara Miller, Petrukhka Dance by Stravinsky, Czardas by



HAY WIRE . . . Making with the music for the family night celebration of the Torrance chapter of the Society for the Preservation and Encouragement of Barber Shop Quartet Singing in America is the Hay Wire Orchestra composed of members of the Torrance group.

Local Seamen Return Aboard Gunston Hall

Two Torrance seamen arrived in San Diego Tuesday aboard the landing ship dock USS Gunston Hall (LSD 5) which was completing her second tour of duty in the Far East.

Aboard were Milton L. Port, son of Mr. and Mrs. Roy Port, 23126 Dolores St.; and Ralph I. Quigley, seaman, son of Mr. and Mrs. P. Quigley, 1543 West 219th